

Blowing Rock Garden Club Zoom Board Meeting (05/21/2025)

Members Present: Marie Caracuzzo, Crystal Miller, Martha Anne Gilliam, Malia Shorts, Lise Jenkins, Marita Higgins, Mona Johnson, Susan Sweet, Mary Babbitt, Elmyra Morris

Marie called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m..

Secretary Report: Martha Anne Gilliam's May minutes were approved. Marita Higgins made the motion to approve and Malia Shorts offered a second.

Treasurer Report: Malia Shorts noted: \$1,533 was collected for May, \$418.00 was paid to horticulture for the garden, and we have a balance of \$29,125.27.

President Report: Marie asks that for future flyers, we include our club logo. Alice Roess and Darlene Kronemann have offered to co-chair bingo. Marie clarified that Malia is to write checks for these donations: \$100 to Banner Elk Gardens, \$250 to Arbor Crest (noting it's for hurricane recovery), and \$100 for Native Plant Society. Marie to table the discussion on increasing the donation to BRAAC until Evenlight can provide input. Marie says that the town will be watering our garden; they do not want hoses in the garden.

Vice-President Report Crystal Miller will chat with Marie about her responsibilities.

Membership Report: Kathy Medosch is to update the roster and send it to Martha Anne for distribution to club members.

Programs: Marita discussed the upcoming program featuring Cantey Tanner, a sculptor who will present on her work and demonstrate her tools, with Shelly Pendleton as moderator.

Field Trips: Mona Johnson discussed upcoming field trips, including a lavender farm visit on June 18th and a rhododendron festival on June 20th (this has since been changed to June 21st), both starting at the American Legion at 9am. Also planned is a July trip to a Swinging Bridge Farm in Deep Gap for lemon tree viewing, blueberry picking, and a tour. The club is experimenting with an online registration system through the website (blowingrockgardenclub.org) using password "GardenFun" for members to sign up for events and add them to their calendars. Susan confirmed garden guides training will be held on Friday, June 13th with an alternate date on Saturday, June 14th, and the practice day was rescheduled to June 19th to avoid conflict with the lavender farm trip. Susan will update the practice day for garden guides to June 19th.

Newsletter: Lynda Steele will send the newsletter at the end of the month. We are asked to send her any information or pictures.

Facebook: Marilyn Green says there is no news to report.

Website: Lise Jenkins reported significant website traffic. She said there was an article in *Our State* magazine which talked about our club and the gardens. Online registration for events is available.

Mile of Flowers: Susan Sweet shared that 134 people had registered for the upcoming MOF event, and plans were made to hopefully finalize sign-ups and tour guide recruitment at the next meeting. Susan will also try to recruit from the Blowing Rock Women's Club. Mary B, Elmyra, and Susan will meet on June 3rd to discuss Mile of Flowers preparations. Marilyn will check with Laura Calbert about potentially stored Mile of Flowers signage. Susan will proceed with ordering new signs for Mile of Flowers if the old ones are not found. (These have since been found.)

Special Programs: Elmyra confirmed that John and Adrienne Rothling will be our speakers at the September program at BRAAHM. He is the director of Reynolda Gardens in Winston Salem. She hopes to organize a field trip to Winston-Salem to see the Gardens, coordinating with John Rothling. There is no firm date yet.

July 4th Parade: Amanda Lugenbell and Joyce Zellner will provide details at the June meeting about decorating the float for the July 4th parade. Marie reported we have a \$200 budget and existing decorations from previous years, including an arch and other materials. Marita will bring seed packet samples to the June 4th meeting to show Joyce for potential parade giveaways. She will also contact Sow True Seeds in Asheville for pricing on custom seed packets.

Past President Input: Mary Babbitt expressed her excitement about Marie's leadership, upcoming events, and appreciation for Elmyra and Susan's contributions.

Marie adjourned the meeting at 10:39

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Anne Gilliam